



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Morel
Serial. No : 09/641,417 Examiner : Fischer, J.
Filed : August 16, 2000 Group Art Unit : 1733
For : JUNCTION OF A TREAD WITH THE SIDEWALLS OF A TIRE

RESPONSE

EXPRESS MAIL LABEL NO. ET346769699US

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

This paper is being filed in response to the non-final Office Action dated July 18, 2002. A request for an extension of time to respond to the Office Action is made. The fee required pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.17 is enclosed herewith.

REMARKS

Claims 1-4 are pending. Claims 1-3 have been rejected under newly cited art. Claim 4 has been found allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant requests reconsideration of the rejection and prompt allowance of the claims in view of the following.

The Objection to Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over Hashimura '863 Should be Withdrawn

Claim 1 has been rejected as being unpatentable over Hashimura (U.S. Patent No. 5,386,863). The Office Action contends that Figure 1 of Hashimura '863 discloses a

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